CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for discriminating an optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, a conductive layer formed on the substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the conductive layer, the apparatus for discriminating an optical recording medium comprising a first electrode and a second electrode which can be disposed in the vicinity of a surface of the light transmission layer disposed on a side opposite from the substrate side, a means for applying a signal to the first electrode, and a means for detecting a signal appearing at the second electrode.

2. An apparatus for discriminating an optical recording medium constituted so as to be able to discriminate between a first kind of optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, a conductive layer formed on the substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the conductive layer and containing a first material and a second kind of optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, a conductive layer formed on the substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the conductive layer and containing a second material different from the first material, the apparatus for discriminating optical recording media comprising a first electrode and a second electrode which can be disposed in the vicinity of a surface of the light transmission layer disposed on a side opposite from the substrate side, a means for applying a signal to the first electrode, and a means for detecting a signal appearing at the second electrode.

3. An apparatus for discriminating an optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, at least one recording layer formed on the

substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the recording layer constituted so as to be able to discriminate the number of the recording layers included in an optical recording medium, the apparatus for discriminating an optical recording medium comprising a first electrode and a second electrode which can be disposed in the vicinity of a surface of the light transmission layer disposed on a side opposite from the substrate side, a means for applying a signal to the first electrode, and a means for detecting a signal appearing at the second electrode.

4. A method for discriminating an optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, a conductive layer formed on the substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the conductive layer, the method for discriminating optical recording media comprising steps of disposing a first electrode and a second electrode in the vicinity of a surface of the light transmission layer disposed on a side opposite from the substrate side, applying a signal to the first electrode, and detecting a signal appearing at the second electrode, thereby discriminating a kind of an optical recording medium.

5. A method for discriminating an optical recording medium constituted so as to be able to discriminate between a first kind of optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, a conductive layer formed on the substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the conductive layer and containing a first material and a second kind of optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, a conductive layer formed on the substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the conductive layer and containing a second material different from the first material, the method for discriminating an optical recording medium

comprising steps of disposing a first electrode and a second electrode in the vicinity of a surface of the light transmission layer disposed on a side opposite from the substrate side, applying a signal to the first electrode, and detecting a signal appearing at the second electrode, thereby discriminating whether an optical recording medium is the first kind of an optical recording medium or the second kind of an optical recording medium.

6. A method for discriminating an optical recording medium comprising at least a substrate, at least one recording layer formed on the substrate and a light transmission layer formed on the recording layer, which is constituted so as to be able to discriminate the number of the recording layers of an optical recording medium, the method for discriminating an optical recording medium comprising steps of disposing a first electrode and a second electrode in the vicinity of a surface of the light transmission layer disposed on a side opposite from the substrate side, applying a signal to the first electrode, and detecting a signal appearing at the second electrode, thereby discriminating the number of the recording layers included in an optical recording medium.